

QA-148
Blue Lantern Inn
Centreville
Private

circa 1792-98

The Blue Lantern Inn is one of perhaps a dozen buildings in Centreville that date to the last decade of the 18th century when the town was first laid out. The early brick structure was constructed in two stages, one almost immediately after the other, and evidently was intended for use as separate but adjoining dwelling houses. Later frame additions to the rear have enlarged the building considerably. Significant details include the fine brickwork of the front facade, the put-log holes in the north gable, and the handsome cornice. Over the years, the building has served as a dwelling house, boarding house, inn, tea shop and antique shop.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Blue Lantern Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

110-112 South Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Douglas G. Anderson

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

112 South Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 96

Folio #: 553

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Blue Lantern Inn is located on the west side of South Commerce Street in Centreville, just south of Water Street.

This large brick building was constructed in two separate stages, both evidently dating to the mid-1790's. The original building is 2 1/2 stories high, three bays wide and one room deep, with single chimneys at each end of a pitched gable roof. Almost immediately after the original building was completed, it was enlarged three more bays to the north.

The front facade of the original section is three bays wide, with a door in the center bay flanked by one 2/2 window on each side. There are three 2/2 windows on the second floor and two 6/6 pitched roof dormers on the third floor. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond above a three-course bond foundation. A three-course belt course stretches across the facade between the first and second floor; there is no water table. The eaves are boxed in and trimmed with a crownmold and a complex bed mold. The roof is covered with

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

asphalt shingles. A one story porch stretches across the entire front facade of the enlarged building, but the outline of earlier small entrance porches remain visible at both front doors.

The south gable of the original building is laid in three-course bond, with no water table or belt course. The chimney protrudes about nine inches from the gable wall. Small, paired four-light casement windows flank the chimney on the first floor, a single 2/2 window is located to the left of the chimney on the second floor, and small attic windows flank the chimney in the upper gable. The rakeboards are beaded and tapered. A frame addition on the rear wraps around the southwest corner of the south gable wall.

The rear facade is completely covered by a series of later frame additions.

The north gable wall of the original building is covered by the early brick addition. The chimney on this gable is flush with the original exterior wall. A pair of small windows remain visible on the third floor, flanking the chimney. These were covered up by the addition. One put-log hole is visible on the first story from the cellar stairs of the north addition.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

The front facade of the early addition is also three bays wide, but the addition is about six feet shorter and the bays are more closely spaced. The door is located in the south bay with two 2/2 windows to the north, three 2/2 windows on the second floor, and two closely spaced 6/6 pitched roof dormers on the roof. There are two six-light cellar windows directly below the first floor windows. The brickwork on this facade is also Flemish bond above a three-course bond foundation. There is no belt course on this section of the building, and no water table. Roof and cornice match the original building except there is no bed mold below the soffit of the cornice.

The north gable wall of the addition is laid in three-course bond with no belt course or water table. Five tiers of put-log holes form a pleasing decorative effect on this gable. The only early openings on this wall are a six-light window to the left of the chimney and a four-light to the right, both in the upper gable. A small window to the right of the chimney on the second floor appears to be a later alteration. The rakeboards are plain replacements.

The rear facade has been completely covered by

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

later additions.

The interiors of the two buildings are treated as separate units. The original building has a hall-parlor plan on the first floor, with a small lobby entrance. It is unclear how early this lobby entrance is. It has the general appearance of a late alteration, but the door architrave trim matches the original and one corner is framed with an early beaded corner post. The front door opens into this small lobby, with doors to left and right opening into the two first floor rooms. The larger hall is to the north, with a fireplace centered on the north wall and a winder stair in the northeast corner. A door between the stair and the fireplace opens into the north addition. A built-in cupboard to the left of the fireplace appears to be original. The fireplace surround is a simple Federal mantel with a crossetted ovolo backband framing the opening and plain blocks supporting a fine complex molded shelf which breaks forward above the blocks. The same ovolo backband is found framing the cupboard and on the lobby door architrave. The front door architrave looks Greek Revival, matching the paneled soffit and jambs of that opening and the panel mold of the 6-panel interior doors. The window architraves

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

have Gothic reeding and probably also date to the 1840's or 1850's. The stair appears to be rebuilt in the original location.

The smaller parlor to the south has been altered to some extent. The fireplace is centered on the south gable wall, flanked by modern bookcases. A large double door has been cut in the rear wall, opening into the rear wing. This part of the house served as a tea room earlier in this century. The original mantel is the only significant original detail in the parlor. This mantel is similar to the hall mantel, with a crossetted surround framing the opening below plain blocks and a complex Federal shelf that breaks forward above the blocks.

The second floor of the original building consists of a large room to the south, a stairhall across the north end of the east facade, and a smaller chamber to the west of the hall. This small chamber was later partitioned to allow a narrow hall leading back to the rear wing. The two chambers are heated by fireplaces. The small northwest chamber has a simple board mantel with a molded backband framing the opening, plain blocks and a plain shelf above a simple Federal molding.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

The mantel in the south chamber is similar but with a replaced shelf. Original architrave trim has survived on the doorways to both chambers.

The third floor plan is similar to the second floor, but with less space due to the knee walls and sloping ceiling. A tight winder stair is located in the northeast corner of the hall. To the west of the hall is a small store room, to the south is a small chamber. There is no access to the roof or eaves.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a brick wall corresponding to the first floor partition. The south chimney base has an arched recess but no flue; the north chimney base includes a cooking fireplace. To the right of this fireplace, an opening has been cut through to the cellar of the adjoining brick wing. To the left of the fireplace is a tall, narrow recessed arch. The ceiling joists are hewn and pit sawn, set parallel to the gable walls. They are whitewashed and at one time were plastered with lathing nailed with machine nails.

The interior of the early brick addition consists of a side stair hall across the south end, adjoining

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

the original building, and a larger room to the north. The stair rises against the south wall of the hall with an intermediate landing at the rear. It is a closed-string stair with a turned newel, square balusters, and a simple rail. There is a large triangular panel below the carriage with an ogee panel mold and a flat recessed panel. The carriage piece has a cove/astragal molded edge and appears to be original, while the newel and the rail up to the landing appears to be a later replacement. A beaded batten door under the landing opens onto an interior cellar stair. The front door is a modern replacement, set in a beaded and rabbetted architrave below a four-light transom. The soffit and jambs are paneled but are not original, dating to the second quarter of the 19th century. A door in the south wall of the hall, at the foot of the stairs, opens into the north room of the original building. A six-panel Federal door in the north wall of the hall opens into the north parlor. The fireplace in the parlor is offset to east of center on the north gable wall, allowing for a cellar cooking fireplace flue. It is framed with a handsome Federal mantel consisting of a board surround with a broken field fascia, crossetted backband,

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

and plain sideblocks and frieze below a molded shelf. The upper portion of the shelf has been replaced. A large doorway has been cut through the rear wall of this room, opening into the rear wing. These two rooms and a third, smaller room to the rear are used for an antique shop.

On the second floor, the stair hall is located to the southwest, with a large chamber to the north and a smaller chamber to the east. A closet and bath have been added at the west end of the north room, and the west end of the stair hall opens into the rear wing, which is a convoluted warren of small rooms and halls.

The stair continues up to the third floor, which is similar in plan to the second floor but with less space due to the knee walls and low ceiling. There is a small stair hall at the head of the stairs, a store room to the east, and a larger chamber to the north. There is no access to the roof or eaves.

There is a full, one room cellar under this section of the building, with a cooking fireplace on the north gable wall. A doorway has been cut through the south wall to join this cellar with the original building. An original bulkhead cellar entrance in

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

the rear or west wall now serves as a door into a cellar under the rear wing. An early indoor privy constructed of beaded vertical boards is located in the southeast corner of this room. The ceiling joists are machine sawn, in contrast to the hewn joists of the original building. They are whitewashed and have never been plastered.

The rear additions date to the third quarter of the 19th century and were not examined in detail.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Blue Lantern Inn is one of perhaps a dozen buildings in Centreville that date to the last decade of the 18th century when the town was first laid out. The early brick structure was constructed in two stages, one almost immediately after the other, and evidently was intended for use as separate but adjoining dwelling houses. Later additions to the rear enlarged the building considerably. Significant details include the fine brickwork of the front facade, the put-log holes on the north gable, and the handsome molded cornice. Original interior details include several Federal mantels, some architrave trim, and a built-in cupboard in the earlier dwelling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

2/26/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

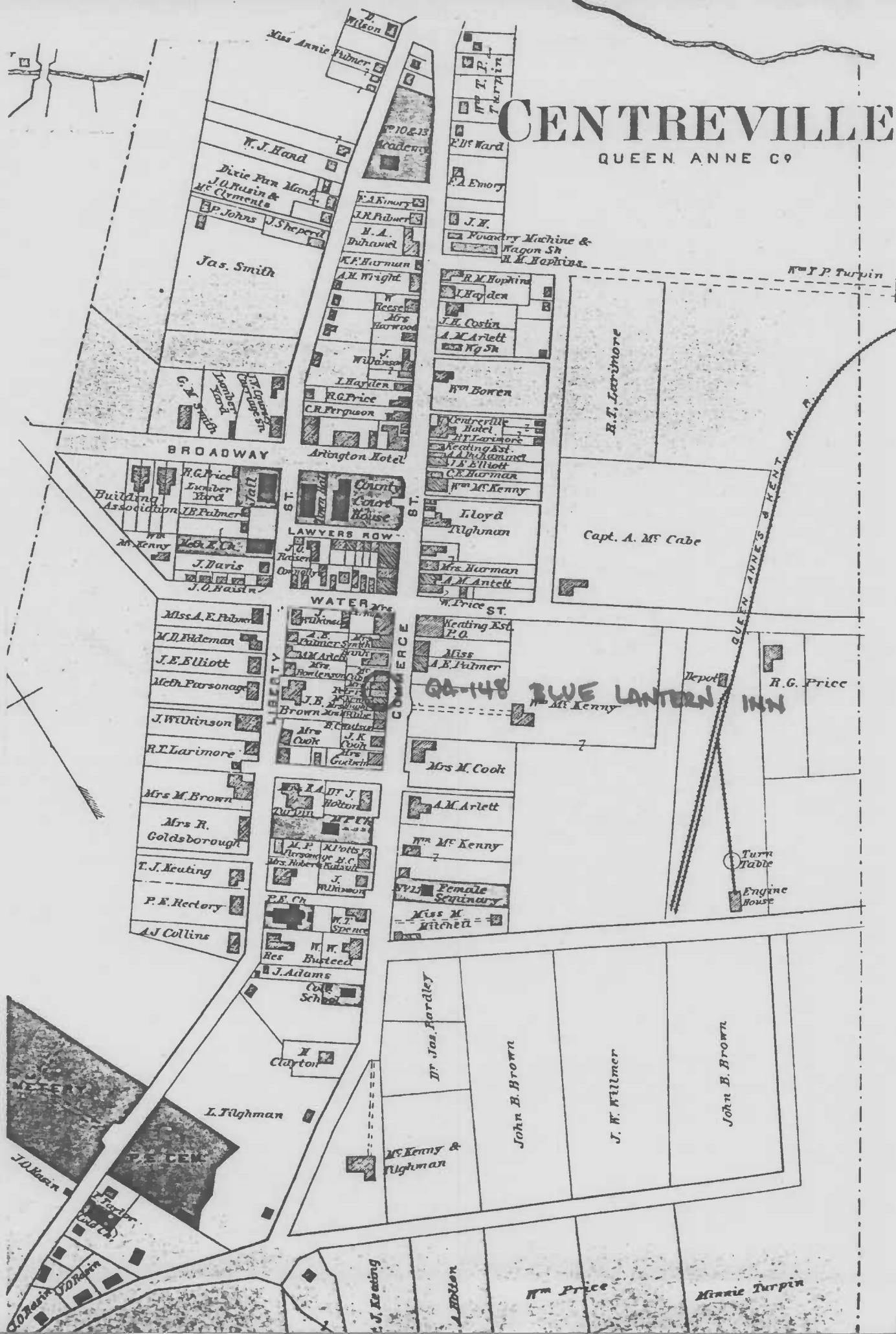
Field Notebook QA-X; Recorded July 3, 1979.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

QUEEN ANNE C9



QA-148
Blue Lantern Inn

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





Blue Lantern Inn

QA#148

EBDQ



QAA# 148

Blue Lantern Inn

EBD Jr



Blue Lantern Inn, 112 S. Commerce St., Centerville O.A. 148

MOB - 1/72



QA-148

Blue Lantern Inn
South Commerce Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Rear facade from West